

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 26, further including the steps of:~~ A method for providing an equipment area network (EAN) for each one or more pieces of equipment or devices, wherein for each local piece of equipment the method comprises the steps of:

(A) connecting a local controller to the piece of equipment;

(B) connecting a local Web server to said controller;

(C) connecting a local router between said Web server and a computer network, for providing isolation therebetween while allowing selective communication therebetween;

(D) assigning a unique network address to said router for devices outside the EAN;

(E) connecting a local HMI Web browser to said router;

(AF) configuring said router to receive requests from Web browsers both local and remote to said EAN;

(BG) responding to a request from a Web browser by having said router check the source network address of the requesting browser;

(EH) determining in response to a requesting local Web browser the destination network address it is requesting;

(EI) configuring said router to respond to a destination network address for a remote Web server by using network address translation (NAT) to translate the associated source network address;

(EJ) forwarding via said router to said remote Web server an answer to the request;

(FK) receiving via said router a response from said remote Web server that it received the answer; and

(GL) forwarding the response to the associated said local Web browser of said EAN.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, further including after step (BG) the steps of:

(HM) determining in response to a requesting remote Web browser the destination network address it is requesting;

(~~I~~N) ignoring the request in response to the destination network address being for a remote Web server;

(~~J~~O) sending the request to the associated local Web server in response to the destination network address being that of another local Web server;

(~~K~~P) Operating the associated local Web server to check the source network address of the Web browser making the request;

(~~L~~Q) responding to the request via the associated said local Web server using remote privileges if the source network address is that of a remote Web browser; and

(~~M~~R) forwarding a response via the associated said local router to the requesting remote browser.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, further including after step (~~K~~P) and before step (~~L~~Q) the step of: (~~N~~S) authenticating via the associated said local Web server the password of the requesting remote Web browser.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, further including after step (~~K~~P) the steps of:

(~~Θ~~I) responding to the request via the associated said local Web server using local privileges if the source network address is that of a requesting local Web browser; and

(~~P~~U) forwarding a response via the associated said local router to the requesting local browser.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, further including after step (~~K~~P) and before step (~~Θ~~I) the step of: authenticating via the associated said local Web server the password of the requesting local Web browser.